

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Appln. No. 09/876,946

Attorney Docket No. Q64789

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claim 18 has been amended to be dependent from claim 1.

Claims 15-17 have been cancelled.

No new matter has been added, and entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-3, 7-9, 11-14 and 18-21 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-3, 7-9 and 11-14 are allowed.

In Paragraph No. 1 of the Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 18-21 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed.

In response, Applicants have in the Amendment, amended claim 18 upon which claims 19-21 depend, to be dependent from claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner rejoin and allow claims 18-21 as linking claims. See MPEP § 821.04.

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Office Action, claims 15-17 are objected to as allegedly being a substantial duplicate of claims 7, 14 and 9, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is now moot because claims 15-17 have been cancelled.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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